

0623 '01 MAR 19 P3:15

November 6, 2000

Honorable Donna Shalala  
Secretary of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Ave. S.W., RM.615F  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As A Hearing Aid Specialist and a hearing health care provider, I write with respect to hearing aids. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing aids are highly effective by dramatically underutilized medical devices.

I am very concerned with reports that the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has reportedly sent to you a proposal for revising the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing aids in this country that would dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care services and restrict access to hearing health care providers. Please stop and carefully consider the impact that this proposed rule will have on the nation's hearing impaired and on the nation's small business hearing aid specialists. In particular, please ensure that any proposed rule meets the obligations of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

Hearing impairment is a major health care concern. Please don't let the FDA put forth their proposed rule that would impede access to needed hearing health care services for millions of Americans.

Very truly yours,

Mary Lou Lauster  
Hearing Aid Specialist  
Florida State License

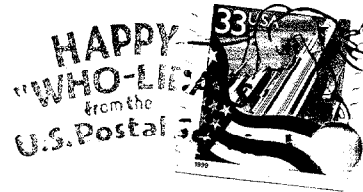


Mary Lou Lauster  
1665 Laura St  
Clearwater, FL 33755

*Run 670  
Parklawn  
Bldg*

93N 0372

C5033



Honorable Donna Shalala  
Secretary of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Ave. S.W. Rm 615F  
Washington, D.C. 20201

1..7.1111.....1111.....1.1.1.1